

Dear Sen. Ragan, Sen. Bolkom, Sen. Costello, Sen. Johnson, Sen. Mathis, Rep. Heaton, Rep. Forbes, Rep. Fry, Rep. Heddens, Rep. Miller,

My name is Tami Fenner. I am writing to express my grave concern about Iowa's Medicaid Modernization Plan. I am the parent of Em Hillman, who is 27 years old and has gone from working in a sheltered work shop to owning her own coffee shop and employing others with disabilities. Em relies heavily on supports for her daily living, be it at the coffee shop or in her own home. With the help of her job coaches and her supported community living staff, she is able to live and work in her community and have a very successful fulfilling life. Without those supports, she would likely be looking at a life in an institution.

One of my biggest concerns is our current case managers being replaced with care coordinators. I feel very uncomfortable having an insurance company employee, that has never met my daughter, decide the level of care she needs over the telephone, especially when that person is employed by the company paying for the service. I understand their case loads could possibly reach 200 in number. How can that person truly know anything about my child? Em cannot be simply explained on a piece of paper or in a 10 minute phone call. There seems to be no check and balance in this system.

I beg of you to leave the current case managers in place. Our disabled community needs their advocates. These relationships are so valuable. The case managers know the people they serve and can often speak for those who cannot.

Tami Fenner, proud mother of Emilea Hillman
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